

Peter Lilley allegedly has a platonic marriage with a wife of convenience who lives in France and makes occasional trips across the channel to attend Conservative Party banquets. As the weeks continued their muckraking Peter Bottomley's name resurfaced as another Portillo suster and there was loose talk about who had actually fathered Virginia Bottomley's illegitimate child.

In selected City beaches Brummie bitches are known to sing, for their own loud amusement, a corrupted version of Lillibulero, theme tune to The World Service News. By November one version replaced the line 'Whose perradillo is Michael Portillo?' Another version on the same theme was picked up by Guardian diarist Maev Kennedy. On the 10th Dec, she reported two second hand tidbits of Lilley/Portillo gossip.

So when it was announced on Boxing Day that another government minister had been discovered having a sexual adventure, the season was, for a brief moment, truly festive. But not for long. It was the wrong pants with a tacky little plot and neither of the promised big stars from the Cabinet. Instead a minor celebrity hypocrite, Tim Fec, was bleeding them although he had created a single parent family it wasn't going to involve any screwing off the state because he was going to pay for it all out of his own pocket.

LOVE-CHEAT TIMEBOMBS

A TIMEBOMB is a device under the Tory Party. For every Minister who goes to bed with a female, a bomb is planted in the back of the car.

There is the famous Cabinet 'off' who forced a politician to have an affair because he was the only one who could do it.

And there are the two Labour Ministers - one of whom is now a Minister of State - who were both caught in the act of having an affair.

Named

One man who knows that the old 'secret' rule is not the rule is the Tory Minister in the Department of the Environment, Mr. Fec.

Mr. Fec has been caught in the act of having an affair with a woman who is not a member of the House of Commons.

Another woman who is not a member of the House of Commons is the woman who is the only one who can do it.

By-Connacht

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Lilley laid low by Portillo's humbug

Diary

Maev Kennedy

EARL, husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec. The Earl of Fec, who is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec, is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec. The Earl of Fec, who is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec, is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec.

all men and husbands for me. I am a woman of great strength. I am a woman of great strength. I am a woman of great strength.

WELSHMAN, Mr. Fec. The Welshman, Mr. Fec, is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec. The Welshman, Mr. Fec, is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec. The Welshman, Mr. Fec, is the husband of the House of Commons member, Mr. Fec.

But the main story still refused to break. Why? Cabinet Minister David Hunt defending John Major's back to his own beliefs in the wake of the two papers, referred to "the private life of a minister or shadow minister..." slyly implying an extension of the parliamentary peering system with the opposition - a sort of "you tell on us and we'll tell on you" mutual defence.

In their desperation to get elected one day, Labour politicians may well be intimidated by such twaddly deals but what was restraining the tabloids? His can't have compromising photos of everybody in Fleet Street from Ian Hislop to Rupert Murdoch easily?

The weekend before parliament returned a cluster of other scandals erupted and the house of cards began to shake with the hapless Major uttering an from Brussels about "minor indiscretions". Then 19th Jan, The Daily Mirror repeated the rumours. Scallywag and Private Eye parodied the pair in cartoon form and on Tuesday 11th there was a chief collective buzz as Lilley entered the chamber of the house. That morning Bookman William Hill quoted Major as an even money chance to survive 1994. It's worth a bet. We will know sooner rather than later if we've done our money on a pack of porkies.